



Mr. Ronald J. "Ronnie" Rich

May 10, 1946 - January 26, 2021

SAUQUOIT - Mr. Ronald J. "Ronnie" Rich, age 74, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Born in Utica on May 10, 1946, Ronald was the son of the late Joseph R. and Frances (Coromato) Rich. He attended Roosevelt Elementary School and graduated from T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1964. A proud veteran, Ronnie served his country with honor as a member of the United States Army. On October 18, 1969 he married the former Anna Marie Fiore with whom he shared 51 years blessed with beautiful children, grandchildren, and family adventures. Ronnie and Anna Marie worked together to make each other happy.

Ronnie held several positions over the years. He worked in construction with various area companies, was employed at the Masonic Home as a staff member in the Grounds and Maintenance department of a well-cared for property, and lastly held a job at Special Metals as a machine specialist and operator, the position from which he retired and most enjoyed. He loved the ocean, walking the beach and challenging the beauty of the waves. That was his happy place. One might think that his love for the water began with the Rich family camp at Sylvan Beach where they enjoyed their endless summers.

A family man, Ronnie was so proud and protective of his children. He had a wicked sense of humor, a nickname for everyone, the ability to light up a room, and the knack of making everyone laugh. What a gift! His stories were

legendary, and the most famous was about his attendance at the original Woodstock Rock Festival in 1969 where he saw the band “The Who” perform when all were young. In later years, a family trip which included his grandchildren to Las Vegas was intended for him to see the band “The Who” once again of which he got to tell him that he saw them back in the day. If there was ever a family vacation, he was there. When the grandchildren came, they were enthralled by his lifestyle and funny stories. He was so full of life that they always wanted to spend time with him. He was the “PaPa” and they loved and adored him. From their childhood to adulthood, he was always there for them, and he felt so blessed for his relationship with them. He loved vintage cars and attending car shows; and above all, he was a guy who knew how to pick a car, and he had a daily ritual of washing and detailing it with such pride. His black Pontiac GTO was his favorite ride. Ronnie loved biking with no destination in mind, but always ended up at a place where he could have his Dewar’s on a lot of ice. Music was his passion, including different genres, always played with the volume up! Back in the day when Ronnie would put the pedal to the medal, he was known to have gotten about 9 million tickets.... and always dropped his sister’s name just as many times of which she would deny, deny, deny. Those who knew and loved Ronnie also remember him sitting around the table with his family listening to his hysterical stories and thinking “You can’t make this stuff up!”, and everyone would fall off their chairs laughing.

He loved the outdoors, worshipped the sun, and always strived for making each day count, and each day great. He lived the “Peter Pan Syndrome” and will always be remembered for never wanting to grow old or going grey. He started off having a great year, but some obstacles got in the way. He was young at heart and he truly had not lived enough of life, but we believe that he is in heaven carrying on.

Ronnie is survived by his wife, Anna Marie; his children and their spouses, Melissa A. and Phillip Grande, Kimberly A. and Mark Santomassino, and Joseph V. and Dawn (Leone) Rich; his grandchildren, Antonio V., and

Adrianna C. Grande; Briana, Marco V., and Angelo J. Santomassino; and Salvatore J. Rich. He also leaves his siblings and their loved ones, Dolores “Dee” and Ronald Critelli, Shelly and Roland Lamothe, Virginia “Ginny” and Ralph Messina, Bryon and Anne Rich, Doreen Rich, and the memory of his brothers who preceded him, Wayne A. Rich (1982), and Joseph Rich (2010); his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. Ronnie was a people person and he made friends from childhood to the present, including his Myrtle Beach snow bird buddies. Everyone meant something to him and his memory will remain with them. He was predeceased by his in-laws, Vincent and Jane (Muto) Fiore; and his aunt, Marie Fiore. The family is grateful to the staff at MVHS at St. Luke’s Healthcare ICU for their outstanding care, love, and compassion; all the attending physicians for their medical efforts; and nurses Sue and Stephanie who kept the family connected with Ronnie, and for that, they will not be forgotten. Everybody was amazing.

The family will honor and commemorate Ronnie’s life at a private time, and they will announce a date and time when all will be safe to have a true celebration of this great man’s life.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Ronnie’s family through the “Memories” section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Anne Marie, So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Wishing you strength and peace.
My Condolences
Antoinette Fiore

ANTOINETTE FIORE - February 16, 2021 at 06:09 PM

JM

“ sorry to hear about Ronald, he was a great friend and a great guy to have for a cousin.
we will miss not seeing at new Hartford sporting events.

john&rosalie maliani

joihn maliani - February 09, 2021 at 01:03 PM

SH

“ We are sending our condolences for Anna Marie, Missy, Kim, and Joe and the rest of Uncle Ron's family. It is with a heavy heart to learn of this news in the unprecedented time. We are praying for you and hope God's peace is with you all.

Shawn - February 07, 2021 at 09:37 AM

OD

“ In the early days of the Cafe Domenico, Ronnie was a regular when he was here in Utica. I will never forget how kind Ron was to my father, Bud when he was dying of cancer. Ronnie knew that Bud like himself had been something of tough guy when he was younger. The last time my father was in the Cafe withered away by the disease, Ronnie told him, "Buddie, you can still lick any man in the room," which got a laugh from Bud. Ronnie was a kind man and the personification of East Utica Italian. God bless him.

Orin Domenico - February 02, 2021 at 12:30 AM

DA

“ So sorry to hear of you loss Mark, Kim and all the Rich family. A wonderful man gone to soon my sincere condolences and you will be remembered in my prayers daily. RIP "Ron". Debbie and John Amodio

Debbie Amodio - February 01, 2021 at 07:39 PM

JS

“ We are so very sorry for Ronnie's passing. Glad to have helped out with the electrical wiring of the baby's room so many years ago. Hope everything else is going well for you during this sad time. Our condolences, Jim & Sue Stewart

Jim & Sue Stewart - February 01, 2021 at 06:51 PM

JT

“ I am so very very sorry that my good friend since childhood passed away...Ronnie you will always be with us..truly a great and funny guy..too young..just too young..to the family my thoughts and prayers go out to all of you..He is truly in a better place enjoying life a gain..God Bless you all.
Jimmy Tebsherany

Jim Tebsherany - February 01, 2021 at 06:37 PM

JZ

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Ronnie was a wonderful man.
In our thoughts & prayers,
Jerry & Janine Zenzillo

Janine Zenzillo - February 01, 2021 at 02:05 PM

DM

“ 🙏 Rest in Peace 🙏

Dan Marino - February 01, 2021 at 12:45 PM

SP

“ Anna Marie, I have many fond memories of Ronnie from Dudley Ave to high school to Slyvan Beach. when I worked at Sears , Ronnie and John Doti would stop while on their mall walks and talk for a while . always a smile on his face. he was one of f the good ones. may he rest in peace. Tubby La Porte

Santo La Porte - February 01, 2021 at 10:18 AM

CS

“ Anna, Missy, Kim & Joey , We are so sad and surprised to hear of Ronnie's passing. We will always remember his great personality and how he made us laugh. Please accept our deepest sympathy and know you all are in our thoughts and prayers . God bless you all with wonderful memories to hold in your hearts.
God's peace, Charleen and Jerry Sangiacomo

Charleen and Jerry Sangiacomo - January 31, 2021 at 08:41 PM

CS

“ *Annamarie and Family*

Not sure if you even remember me but I always remembered you and Ron from Proctor. I was saddened to hear about Ron's passing as I remember what a great guy he was . It's so hard to understand why those we love are taken from us but try to remember what a special part of his life you all were. Memories are the legacy of love and nothing can take those away from you. Hold onto your memories and let them guide you through this most difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God Bless you Ron and may you rest in peace .

PS> Annamarie, Angels walk close to those whose hearts are breaking.

Carol LaPaglia Scampone

Carol Scampone - January 31, 2021 at 06:47 PM

DM

“ *Dick MARTELL*

Anna & children, Bryon, Shelly & sisters..

So sorry to hear about Ronnie. We have known each other for around 60 years. He was a dear and true friend of mine. I would call him on his birthday, and he would call me on mine. We would talk and laugh. I will miss his laughter and the way he got so animated telling stories. To know Ronnie, was to love him, he was definitely one of a kind. His God given talent, was to a smile on someone's face. He will always be in my thoughts, my heart, and in my prayers. R.I.P. my friend.....

Dick Martell - January 31, 2021 at 06:22 PM

PS

“ *Sending my sincere condolences and love, Annamarie to you and your family. Love Paulette Sbarra*

Paulette Sbarra - January 31, 2021 at 01:58 PM

RF

“ *anna and family so sorry for your loss. i was so shocked to here the news of his passing today. so many memories of our friendship for over 50 years. never for get the time he came to new Hampshire to visit me what a true friend. Ron would do anything for anyone that needed help. every time i came back to utica to visit family i would look up ron and we would get together and tell stories about the good old days. iwas in his wedding and he in mine. what a friend .always had a heart of gold. i will miss him as you all will. love to his family i pray for all of you that you may find peace. good bye friend loved you, your friend bobby* ”

robert fiore - January 31, 2021 at 01:00 PM

FR

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Anna Marie and all the family. Always enjoyed Ronnie's company at family gatherings. He was always good for a laugh. Pleas know he us in our prayers Cousin Frank and Gay Rachubka* ”

Frank Rachubka - January 30, 2021 at 07:24 PM

MG

“ *To phil , miissy, an family so sorry for your loss. Ron will be always in our thoughts. He will be deeply missed.* ”

Michael graziadei - January 30, 2021 at 06:24 PM

SB

“ *to joe and family so sorry for your loss, may he rest in peace.* ”

sal barbero - January 30, 2021 at 05:02 PM

MS

“ I will always cherish the thousands and thousands of miles of road trips with Ronnie, and thousands and thousands of laughs! He always loved to brag about his grandkids and it was what he was most proud of!

Michael Spiridigloizzi - January 30, 2021 at 10:50 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mr. Ronald J. "Ronnie" Rich.



January 30, 2021 at 10:31 AM

EC

“ To the Rich Family and Dee and Ron Critelli
My heartfelt condolences.
RIP Ron.....
God Bless

Joseph and Ernie Critelli..

Ernie Critelli - January 30, 2021 at 10:25 AM

DC

“ We send our prayers to your family. Always remember the good times.
God Bless
Dyana & Chet Cornacchia

Dyana & Chet Cornacchia - January 30, 2021 at 10:13 AM

RL

“ You need an hour to write about Ronnie. Met him at Slyvan Beach in early 1960's with my cousin Tony Mancini. Then later at Proctor being part of the Roosevelt School crew. He lived for today but didn't forget about yesterday. A story teller who had you listening every word. May Ron Rest In Peace and set up your role in Heaven.
Ralph Lupia

ralph lupia - January 30, 2021 at 09:42 AM

FR

“ SORRY FOR YOUR LOST

frank rotundo - January 30, 2021 at 07:06 AM

AB

“ To the Santomassino and Rich family- our deepest condolences to all of you! We always enjoyed running into Ronnie at games and hearing his funny stories about the beach.. or life in general! Definitely gone too soon.. 🙏❤️ Tony and Andrea Barres

Andrea Barres - January 29, 2021 at 11:09 PM

KD

“ Dee Critelli, Melissa Grande and Rich family, Alan and I are so sorry for your loss. Please accept our condolences and know you are in our thoughts and prayers.
Karen and Alan DelMedico

Karen DelMedico - January 29, 2021 at 08:55 PM

BS

“ Anna and family our sincerest condolences go out to you all at this very sad time. Our prayers are with you. 🙏 R.I.P. Ron. Bob and Cheryl Santomassino

Bob and Cheryl Santomassino - January 29, 2021 at 08:35 PM

SR

“ Ronnie and i grew up together. We both attended Roosevelt School and Proctor. He was a couple of grades above me but he never let that stand in the way of our friendship. He was a great guy with a great sense of humor. We kind of lost tract of each other but then when I opened my diner on James street he came walking in the door and from then on he never missed an opportunity to talk about the good old days. Words cannot convey how saddened I felt to hear about his passing. He will be missed and my heart goes out to his family. Joe losing your dad is hard but try to remember the good times and celebrate his life. May he rest in peace. Thanks Ronnie for all the memories.

Sandra Derminio Reilly - January 29, 2021 at 06:56 PM

JA

“ From another of the 3 o'clock Myrtle Beach swimming boys , Ronnie will be missed. He shared his bicycle with Douglas and drank a Canadian Caesar (Bloody Mary but better). We'll be looking after his parking spot at the Renaissance tower when we're able to return.
Douglas and Jean

Jean Arthur - January 29, 2021 at 06:29 PM

ND

“ Our deepest condolences to "Ronnie's" loved ones and family. Norm and I first met Ronnie in Myrtle Beach at the inside/outside pool. He was a great comedian and had everyone in stitches. Later Norm joined the "Group" of men at 3 PM every day at the pool to swap stories. Wonderful memories! He will be missed!
From your Canadian friends
Norm and Judy

Norm and Judy Durham - January 29, 2021 at 05:48 PM

AC

“ Anna & Family We are So Sorry for Your Loss, We we're Friends for So Long Ronnie Stood up for us when Linda and I were married The memories that I hold are unforgettable He was such a Great Friend. He will always be in my prayers. Our thoughts and Prayers will be with Your Family. Rest In Peace my Friend. Andy & Linda Convertino

Andy & Linda Convertino - January 29, 2021 at 04:22 PM

CD

“ To all, my love and prayers to you all and my deepest condolences. I know I have not been around for years, but have many many positive fun memories of Ronnie as we were growing up. Blessings to all,. Cousin Debra aunt margaret,s daughter

Cousin debra - January 29, 2021 at 03:34 PM

CA

“ To Ronnie Rich. We will sadly miss you. Our walk's on beach, trip's to Costco an our Sunday dinner. You made our winters in Myrtle Beach happy time. We will miss you terribly. Your Canadian friend's. Cal & Benetta. (B)



Cal & Benetta. Andrews - January 29, 2021 at 03:23 PM

CK

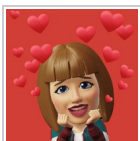
“ Sending my condolences to the entire Rich family. My husband and I met Ronnie through Bryon and Anne. We were fortunate enough to have shared a couple of years of friendship with him before me moved away. RIP, Ronnie.

Cheryl Kingsley - January 29, 2021 at 03:00 PM

DS

“ Anna, Missy, Kim and Joe, I am so sorry to hear of Ronnie’s passing. I was so surprised to hear of it...as his zest for life was one to live forever. Prayers for you all and your children. I’m sure that his presence, will be forever missed within your family. Love, Darlene Scott

darlene scott - January 29, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ To Mark, Kim and all the family so very sorry for your loss! My thoughts, prayers and love are with you all at this very difficult time!!! Love from Aunt Tracy and John!!! R.I.P. Ron 🙏

Tracy Jones - January 29, 2021 at 01:48 PM

MB

“ Kim ,Mark , Joe and family sorry for your loss . Thoughts and prayers for you all. Godbless Michael and Debra Brigano

Michael Brigano - January 29, 2021 at 01:19 PM

PC

“ Ronnie will always have a special place in the heart of the people he met. I enjoyed just being around him, he was a one in a million, a legend in his time. He is now with the Lord and I am sure he is whole. Ronnie will always be remembered by me, my sympathy is with Anna and the Children, may he rest in peace and God Bless His Soul. Peter and Patty Cerminaro.

peter and patty cerminaro - January 29, 2021 at 11:56 AM

RS

“ To the entire Rich a family my condolences, As Ronnies first cousin,I remember those days at the Sylvan Beach with all the families congregating and having some great times. As we grew up everyone got older, I moved away from Utica to Florida and was always in touch with some of the family members. So with that I say Ronnie “see you on the other side” when your up there love to all are family and friends, May you Rest In Peace. Love you cousin
Richard Salerno

Richard Salerno - January 29, 2021 at 11:05 AM

BN

“ Kim & Mark so sorry for your loss

He was some guy & will be missed

Bob & John Nole

bob nole - January 29, 2021 at 10:37 AM

LI

We will miss Ronnie and his awesome humor, the way he lit up a room just by entering, the extra spark he added to vacations, his hilarious stories, and his words of wisdom. He was like family to us, as are all of you.
Love,
Laura and Herb Inman

Laura Inman - January 29, 2021 at 11:37 AM



Ronnie Raddy... We will all miss you. We are all devastated.

The only consolation is that you are ahead of us, and when we get where you are, you will have everything all set for us.

Nobody can get over like you. Pick the best spot!

Love you, buddy, You would always say " Stay in Touch" in my memories, I will always be in touch with you.

Doti

John R Doti - January 29, 2021 at 12:47 PM



To Anna, kids and all the Rich family our hearts are broken. Ronnie over fifty years of close friendship. We did so much together went to Woodstock in your GTO. and much more. We never wanted to miss a thing and mostly we didn't. With all our love Rest In Peace until we meet again.

Mike and Lorraine

mike yozzo - January 29, 2021 at 03:26 PM



My sincere condolences to Anna, Joey, Kim and Missy. Ronnie

was the best friend a guy could ever have. Known each other since grade school at Roosevelt.

We had many great times together in Utica and Myrtle Beach.

Always made me and everyone around us laugh, had the best stories.

I am very, very heartbroken from his passing and he will remain in my mind and heart forever

Rest in piece my friend, till we meet again.

Michael A Joseph

MICHAEL JOSEPH - January 29, 2021 at 11:04 PM

AJ

Rest in Piece my friend. Anthony Joseph

ANTHONY JOSEPH - January 30, 2021 at 12:01 PM



Rest in peace Ronnie.

Joseph Surace - January 31, 2021 at 05:04 AM

RC

Ronnie and I and my sister all grew up together and enjoyed so many wonderful, fun summers at Sylvan Beach....he certainly was a fun and respectful guy. We all will miss his presence and extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Rich family.

The "Dziura" twins, Kathy and RoseAnn

RoseAnn Caporuscio - January 31, 2021 at 10:19 AM

GB

To Anna and family,my sincere condolences.It broke my heart learning of Ronnies passing. A close friend since grade chool.He was special to me and others for his friendship and just a great guy and made me laugh all the time. Love You man , RIP Buddy Jerry Back

Gerald Back - January 31, 2021 at 11:12 AM

MK

*To Kimberly and Mark,
My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.*

Myron Kuchera

Myron Kuchera - January 31, 2021 at 05:52 PM

JN

so many of my fondest memories are with you Ron. i only wish we could've made more..love you my friend

John n Nole - February 01, 2021 at 09:53 PM

SM

*My sincere sympathy Anna, to you and your family.
I grew up in Utica. I moved away in the 70s. I knew Ronnie from McGirls and Grippie days. My cousin John Caleo and others I knew were such good friends of his.
Ronnie had a contagious smile and was a very nice person.
I saw Ronnie at cafe Domenicos about 4or 5 years ago when I was visiting my mom.
He was still" " Ronnie ". Nice. He loved his family so much.
He will be your angel for all of you.
It's so hard to lose such a special person that he was. He's in your hearts forever.
Sandy Macri McNamara 🥺*

Sandra Mcnamara - February 08, 2021 at 06:21 PM

PA

*Ronni
Just learned of your passing. Fond memories of the past, may you Rest In Peace
Pete Aceto (remember we are the panthers, the mighty mighty panthers)*

pete aceto - February 15, 2021 at 07:42 AM